

Appl. No. 10/814,957

Listing of the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 7, 9, 10 and 13 have been amended, and claims 4-6, 8, 11, 12 and 14 have been cancelled.

1. (Currently amended) A telephone interface for a handicapped individual comprising:

a processor configured to control the telephone interface;

a public switched telephone network (PSTN) interface connected to the processor and to the PSTN;

a sound generator connected to the processor and to the PSTN interface configured to generate synthesized speech responsive to said processor;

~~a display device connected to the processor and configured to display one of a plurality of menus and to highlight an active area of the menu responsive to the processor; and~~

an input device connected to the processor and including a sensor placed adjacent to a controllable voluntary muscle of an individual, the input device configured to generate a signal to the processor responsive to the sensor detecting voluntary muscle movement; and

a display device connected to the processor and configured to display a first menu, the first menu comprising a plurality of telephony functions, the telephony functions including selectable preset telephone numbers and individual numbers that can be used to build a telephone number, wherein the processor is configured to control the PSTN interface according to receiving a signal when one of the telephony functions is active, the processor being further configured to cause the PSTN interface to initiate a telephone call based on the telephony functions of the first menu;

the display device being further configured to, after the PSTN interface initiates the telephone call, display a second menu, the second menu comprising speech functions, the speech functions comprising words and phrases, wherein the processor is configured to cause the sound generator to generate speech according to receiving a signal when one of the words and phrases is active;

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the processor further configured to highlight an active area of each of the first and second menus responsive to the processor when each of the first and second menus are displayed, the processor being further configured to periodically change the active area of the displayed one of the first or second menus;

the processor further configured to perform a function described by the active portion of the menu responsive to the signal.

2. (original) A telephone interface in accordance with claim 1 wherein the sensor comprises a piezo-electric sensor configured to be responsive to voluntary muscle movement.

3. (original) A telephone interface in accordance with claim 1 wherein the input device is configured to synthesize a mouse click responsive to the sensor detecting voluntary muscle movement.

4. (cancelled)

5. (cancelled)

6. (cancelled)

7. (Currently amended) A telephone interface in accordance with claim 1 wherein ~~one of said plurality of menus~~ the second menu comprises alphanumeric characters and the processor is configured to build words according to the received signal when one of the alphanumeric characters is active.

8. (cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) A telephone interface in accordance with claim ~~[[8]]~~ 1 wherein the processor is configured to scan the first and second menus cyclically.

10. (Currently amended) A method for controlling a telephone interface for a handicapped individual, said telephone interface comprising a processor, a sound generator connected to the processor, a display connected to the processor, a telephone network interface connected to the processor and to the public switched telephone network (PSTN) and an input device connected to the processor and to a sensor that generates a signal in response to voluntary muscle movement of the handicapped individual, said method comprising:

displaying a first menu on the display indicating a plurality of telephony functions, the telephony functions including selectable preset telephone numbers and individual numbers that can be used to build a telephone number;

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periodically making one area of the display first menu active;
performing one or more functions related to initiating a telephone call described by the
active area of the first menu display responsive to a signal from said input device
initiating a telephone call based on the displayed functions on the first menu;
displaying, after the phone call is initiated, a second menu, the second menu comprising
speech functions, the speech functions comprising words and phrases;
periodically making one area of the second menu active;
causing the sound generator to generate speech according to receiving a signal when one
of the words and phrases is active.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) A method in accordance with claim 10 ~~wherein performing one or more functions comprises further comprising~~ assembling alphanumeric characters into words, phrases or sentences by said processor and displaying the words, phrases or sentences at said display.

14. (Cancelled)